

File

14 August 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview with Bruce R. Grant, Senate Select Committee Staff on the Defunct NIS Program

1. The meeting took place in the OGCR Conference Room, 9th floor, Magazine Building, between 1000 and 1100, 14 August 1975. The meeting was in response to a letter from Senator Church to Mr. Colby dated 5 August 1975, indicating the Committee's intention to inquire into the NIS Program. Also present and participating in the interview was [redacted] former Vice Chairman of the NIS Committee and Chief of the NIS Division of OSGI.

[redacted] is now retired and under part-time contract to OGCR. [redacted] Deputy Director, OGCR, was present as an observer at my invitation.

2. Mr. Grant's primary purpose in the meeting was to attempt to ascertain to what extent the document requests included in the 5 August letter from Senator Church covered the necessary documentation for purposes of his report. He stated that his intention was to produce a report -- hopefully in about a month -- which would tell how the Program got started, what it was supposed to do, how it did it, how and why its scope and focus changed, and why it was discontinued. He also wanted our suggestions as to whom else he might interview in seeking the answers to the above questions. He indicated an intention to interview Mr. Proctor, "since his name seemed to come up more frequently than any others as the instigator" of the termination of the NIS. He also stated his intention to interview Gen. Graham, DIA. Neither [redacted] nor I had any suggestions to make on this subject.

3. Mr. Grant asked if there had been any "deploring the loss of the NIS" since its termination. I told him not much, but also pointed out that it was a bit early since there was still a quite large inventory of NIS publications and that the inventory was not yet badly out of date.

4. He asked about the status of the classified version of the Factbook. I informed him that it was continuing to be published on a twice-a-year schedule along with the unclassified version.

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5. He asked for instances that we could recall in which the NIS was recognized as "invaluable" to operations in the field. He recalled our effort to get the China General Survey into print before President Nixon's visit to China and letters of appreciation and acknowledgement which followed. (The letter he was referring to, I believe, was one from U. Alexis Johnson, who was responding as an individual, albeit a high-ranking one, in the State Department, and not as a spokesman for the President's party.) The only other instances [redacted] and I could recall in which high-level people had commented on the unique usefulness of the NIS had to do with the Lebanon and Dominican Republic operations and came from military commands.

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6. We discussed briefly efforts by DIA to solicit Agency participation in a follow-on program. I remarked that at the time USIB terminated the Program, the Agency indicated a willingness to meet DoD requirements [redacted]

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[redacted] on a spot basis and as could be handled in the context of other production priorities. The Agency spokesman at USIB also made clear an inability to commit resources to a continuing, series publication on those subjects tailored to DoD needs. We discussed briefly initiatives by Gen. Graham to keep the Program alive while he was with the IC Staff. We also discussed a recently circularized invitation to contribute to the Army Area Handbook Series published under Army contract by a group at American University.

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8. Among the other documents that Mr. Grant indicated that he might request in a separate communication are:

a. A copy of the final Inventory of Available NIS Publications (30 June 1974), and a copy of an earlier one from the 1970 period.

b. USIB memoranda or minutes related to the decision to terminate the Program.

c. Certain production records which we agreed might be useful to his purposes.

9. He also brought up the possibility of requesting memoranda and documentation generated in OBGI in my efforts to defend the Program. There are a few such reports that would be of interest to him, but I do not know whether he will include them in his request.

10. Mr. Grant stated that requests for documentation from here on will be signed by Mr. William Miller of the Senate Committee Staff, rather than Senator Church.

11. In giving us some background on his role on the Select Staff, Mr. Grant said that he was a member of the Task Force on Military Intelligence and Technology. However, when the subject of the NIS came up repeatedly in the Task Force on Foreign Intelligence and the decision was made to look into the NIS, he was chosen to do the job, having been a member of the NIS Committee of USIB from 1965 until 1973.

12. I believe that what Bruce Grant needs to do his job could be provided in a bibliography of about 12 or 15 documents. I made such a statement during the meeting and Mr. Grant seemed very eager that I take that initiative. I am asking [redacted] to put together such a collection and to look at it from the point of view of saving us all a lot of milling around. We also agreed that Mr. Grant should have some time to work with the documentation he has already requested to clarify his own views as to what he needed. We parted with a tentative arrangement to be in touch through appropriate channels in 2 weeks or so.

13. Despite the length of this memorandum, a considerable amount of time during the hour was taken up with social amenities and banalities.

Distribution:

021 - D/GCR

1 - DDI (Attn: Mr. Parmenter)

1 - Chief, CS/ICS

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D/GCR: [redacted] (14 Aug 1975)